

REMARKS

For the reasons and arguments set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as recited in the presented claims is allowable over the cited references.

The instant Office Action dated October 22, 2007, notes the following objections and rejections: the drawings are objected to for not showing all the elements recited in the claims, and claim 5 is objected to due to informalities; claims 1, 3 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,977,823); claims 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yang and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,521,807); claims 4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yang and further in view of Jang (U.S. Patent No. 7,218,081); and claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yang and in view of Jang. Claims 6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgement that claims 6 and 11 contain patentable subject matter. Applicant notes that claims 6 and 11 have been amended to remove recitations that now appear in their respective base claims, and that these claims therefore recite their original subject matter. Applicant further notes the addition of claims 12-17, which Applicant submits recite allowable subject matter for at least the same reasons presented below in connection with their underlying claim(s).

The Examiner objects to the drawings because they do not show the claimed forward converter being part of a PC power supply. Applicant points out that 37 CFR § 1.81(a) only requires drawings “where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented.” One of ordinary skill would understand how to include the claimed forward converter in a PC power supply, or any power supply, without the full power supply or the PC device being indicated in the drawings. Applicant therefore submits that the inclusion of such a feature is not required to be shown in the drawings. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim 5 stands objected to for allegedly reciting an incorrect operation of a third switch. First of all, it appears that the Examiner meant to object to claim 6 because the language discussed in the objection is not present in claim 5 but is present in claim 6.

Second, Applicant submits that the claim language is correct, and points the Examiner to FIG. 2 and the description provided in Paragraph 0038 of Applicant's Specification. Such description indicates that switches S1 and S3 are closed during operational mode (with switch S2 being open), and that switches S1 and S3 are open during stand-by mode (with switch S2 being closed), just as recited in claim 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 7-8 under § 102(b) over Yang because the Yang reference does not appear to disclose the claimed aspects of selectively switching first and second rectifier switches in such a manner that the first switch is closed and the second switch is open for the first rectifier to provide an operation voltage for the device, and the first switch is open and the second switch is closed so for the second rectifier to provide a stand-by voltage for the device. Yang discloses two rectifiers, each having switches that are controlled by switching signals that are synchronous with the same clock signal (*see, e.g.*, Col. 5:22-40). While Yang's rectifier switches are individually modulated to modify the corresponding voltage outputs, the switches are not selectable to provide an operation voltage when one is closed and the other is open and a stand-by voltage when one is open and the other is closed, such as recited in Applicant's claims. Instead, both of the rectifiers disclosed by Yang provide operation voltage outputs (no stand-by voltage provided), and both are regulated by switches that are synchronous with the same clock signal (no independent selectability).

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Yang does not teach or suggest all the elements recited in Applicant's claims, and therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 3 and 7-8.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 2 and 9 under § 103(a) over Yang and further in view of Chen. Chen is relied upon for its apparent disclosure of more than two rectifiers, which the Examiner acknowledges is not disclosed by Yang. Applicant finds nothing in the teachings of Chen to cure the deficiencies of Yang noted above, namely the selective opening and closing of switches associated with different rectifiers to provide an operation voltage from one rectifier and a stand-by voltage from another rectifier. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that any combination of Yang with Chen (if proper)

would not teach or suggest all the elements recited in claims 2 and 9. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 9.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 4, 5 and 10 under § 103(a) over Yang and further in view of Jang. Applicant notes that claims 4 and 10 have been cancelled, and that their recited features have been incorporated into claims 1 and 8, respectively. Jang is introduced for its apparent provision of a stand-by power stage, which the Examiner admits is not taught by Yang. Applicant submits that the rejection is improper because proposed combination does not teach all the elements recited in Applicant's claims, and because the references are not combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

The cited portions of the Jang reference disclose a multi-stage power supply that includes a single rectifier that outputs to a boost converter, the boost converter outputting to a power output stage and a stand-by power stage. In such a configuration, when voltage is switched on to be supplied to the power output stage, it is also necessarily supplied to the stand-by power stage. Applicant finds nothing in Jang to teach or suggest selective control such as recited in Applicant's claims. The cited portions of Jang further fail to teach or suggest first and second rectifiers, one providing an operation voltage and the other providing a stand-by voltage in accordance with a selectable switch configuration. Thus, the Jang reference does not cure the deficiencies of Yang as noted above.

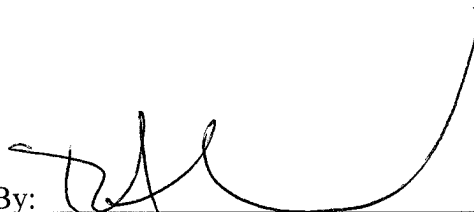
Moreover, because Jang discloses that the output power and stand-by power are coupled to the same rectifier, Applicant submits that any combination of Jang with Yang would not result in the subject matter recited in Applicant's claims. The Examiner has provided no reason why one of skill in the art would modify Yang with the disclosure of Jang in a way that would result in Applicant's claimed invention, particularly in light of Yang's disclosure that two rectifiers are used to individually modulate the operational output voltages of the rectifiers using switches that are synchronous with the same clock signal.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections based on a combination of Yang with Jang are improper, and therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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